

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CY

SUBJECT:CYPRUS: WASHINGTON VISIT OF PEREZ DE CUELLAR

REF: USUN 5006

1. UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S NEW SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CYPRUS SPENT DAY IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 14 FOR SERIES OF BRIEFINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT ON CYPRUS SITUATION. DE CUELLAR SAW UNDERSECRETARY SISCO AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES BUFFUM AND HARTMAN, ALL OF WHOM EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO UN ROLE ON THE GROUND IN CYPRUS AS WELL AS IN MOVING BOTH COMMUNITIES TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

2. THROUGHOUT HIS CONVERSATIONS, DE CUELLAR STRESSED HIS DESIRE TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH US OFFICIALS. HE SAID HE HOPED TO DEVELOP ESPECIALLY CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE US AMBASSADOR IN NICOSIA, AND TOUCH BASE WITH US
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OFFICIALS WHENEVER HE RETURNED TO THIS COUNTRY.

3. DE CUELLAR SAID HIS CURRENT PLANS WERE TO LEAVE NEW YORK THE END OF NEXT WEEK, GO TO LONDON FOR A FEW DAYS, THEN SPEND 3-4 WEEKS ON CYPRUS, BEFORE PAYING INITIAL VISITS TO ATHENS AND ANKARA. DE CUELLAR SAID BEFORE LEAVING

NEW YORK, HE PLANNED TO CALL ON EACH OF THE PERMANENT MISSIONS OF PARTIES INVOLVED IN CYPRUS ISSUE, AS WELL ALL PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND WOULD LET USUN (LORENZ) KNOW ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THE RESULT OF THESE CALLS. HE ALSO SAID HE HOPED VISIT WASHINGTON AGAIN WHEN HE RETURNED TO US THIS DECEMBER.

4. CONCERNING HIS STATUS ON CYPRUS, DE CUELLAR NOTED THAT, AT THE LEVEL OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL, HE SLIGHTLY RANKED UNFICP COMMANDER PREM CHAND. HE ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF UNHCR ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND AND NOTED THAT THE UN WAS CONSIDERING HAVING HIM TAKE OVER FROM THE UNHCR THE ROLE OF COORDINATOR OF ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS.

5. BUFFUM TOLD DECUELLAR THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE LATTER AND PREM CHAND WOULD ENJOY THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND COOPERATION THAT THE UNFICYP COMMANDER AND THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYG HAD ALWAYS HAD. CONCERNING UNHCR, BUFFUM SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S WORK ON CYPRUS WAS THE OPPORTUNITY IT OFFERED THE USG TO DIRECT ITS AID TO ALL ZONES AND COMMUNITIES ON THE ISLAND WITHOUT BECOMING ENTANGLED IN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS WERE EVENTUALLY MADE CONCERNING UNHCR, BUFFUM HOPED THAT THIS FUNCTION, WHICH WAS SO IMPORTANT TO THE USG WOULD REMAIN.

6. COMMENT: DE CUELLAR STRUCK US AS ABLE, NO-NONSENSE DIPLOMAT, WHO UNDERSTANDS DIFFICULTY AND DELICACY OF THE TASK HE IS ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE. HE SHOULD PROVE MUCH, AS HIS PREDECESSORS, VALUABLE CONTACT ON THE GROUND AND WILL DOUBTLESS WISH TO MEET AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD ALMOST IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN CYPRUS. INGERSOLL

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